

April 7, 1975

members of the Public Works Committee, were asked to introduce a bill by Senator Warner at which time, upon the suggestion of members of the Committee we meet with the Director of the Roads, the Department of Roads, Tom Doyle, who brought his staff and came to our meeting and discussed the particular issue that Senator Warner has brought to you this morning. Again, I say that I am quite surprised at him doing this this way because he did have a bill and at the end of that meeting, I saw no consternation on anyone's part that this bill should come forward by the Public Works Committee. I think there are some things that haven't been brought out here this morning and I think that you should be aware of them. Number one, the rules and regulations that come to the counties for this money are the rules and regulations that come from the federal government to the state. They are the same. Mr. Doyle testified to us of the Public Works Committee that they, in turn, created no more rules and regulations upon the counties than they in turn were mandated by the federal government to meet. In other words, they are not asked to make and meet qualifying things more than the state, in itself, is. Probably the main thing that needs to be brought to your attention is, and I think Senator Warner will bear this out, is that that money is sent into the state of Nebraska for the use of the counties. There are counties who do not wish to use the money so that amount of money is left in the Department of Roads in an account and this is where the discrepancy comes in with the crediting. This is where Senator Warner thinks that there should be past come into this and those counties credited what they didn't use. Now, there is one area I would like to ask Senator Warner a question, please. Senator Warner, did not Mr. Doyle testify that there was a formula available and known to the counties that they could meet and qualify under this money?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Mills, yes, there is a formula under which the money is distributed. But in addition to that formula, however, there are rules and regulations which must be met in the form of making application for the various...for each road request, specific road concerned.

SENATOR MILLS: I appreciate that but then there is an awareness on the county's part that they are available to the money because I must say that when this thing hit the papers and it hit with big headlines that the counties had been beat out of 14.1 or 11.4 million dollars, depending on which paper you read it, and I don't know if this is quite true.

SENATOR WARNER: If the chair would permit, Senator Mills, let me add that the...your comment that the counties were beat out or that was the impact, what is the fact, and this I mentioned in my initial remarks as well as in the committee meeting, that since 1972 there has been, that I am knowledgeable about, there has been repeated efforts on the part of the counties to improve the method in which this money is distributed and the method by which the counties know the amount to be available and none of that was implemented. They had asked for quarterly reports as well as annual reports as to what would be in the pool so the counties, in their planning, would know that there was